

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Honorable Town Council Members

FROM: Karl F. Kilduff, Town Manager

DATE: July 15, 2020

Please find my report concerning various items of interest to the Town Council and community.

1. Council Business:

- a) Governor Executive Orders: The Federal Disaster declaration given to Connecticut in response to the COVID-19 pandemic will expire on September 9, 2020. As such, unless renewed, the Executive Orders will expire. It is unclear how many of the Executive Orders will transition into law after September 9. There will be more to follow on this topic. The Town can still look at how we change our business model and how services are delivered utilizing the experience and lessons learned from the COVID-19 experience.

- b) Fireworks: As a follow-up to the last meeting, the Town issued information through Facebook and the Town website to describe what constitutes legal and illegal fireworks. Additionally, I discussed the matter with the Police Chief. Additional attention was paid to fireworks complaints during the July 4 holiday weekend. The additional attention will continue through the summer.

2. Connecticut Conference of Municipalities:

- a) The CCM Legislative Committee has not met since June 16, 2020. CCM has circulated information regarding the possible topics to be taken up during the Special Session.

3. River COG:

- a) The River COG has met since June 24, 2020. They will meet again on July 22, 2020.

4. Miscellaneous:

- a) Transfer Station: Previously I reported for the need to create a Transfer Station Advisory Committee to help staff and the Council work through the operational issues of the Transfer Station. Staff are working on the short-term need to address hauling of waste from the Transfer Station to the MIRA facility in Essex, but there are larger issues in need of unpacking.

- b) Use of the Town Beach: It is my understanding that questions have continued to arise regarding the use of the Town beach by non-residents. COVID aside, this issue is settled case law. The State's highest court affirmed the right of non-residents to use town parks and beaches throughout the State, based on a suit brought against the Town of Greenwich. With that ruling, the beach was open to residents and non-residents alike. Different rates for parking fees have been charged.

Some towns have used reduced parking capacity to control crowd sizes at their parks and beaches. Parks and Recreation is monitoring parking volumes and assessing behaviors to keep social distancing.

- c) Drop Box: The Town has taken delivery of a drop box provided by the State for the collection of absentee ballots. The box will be positioned in front of the building to facilitate drive-thru traffic for those voting by absentee ballot. The Town Clerk's Office is working through an extraordinary volume of requests for absentee ballots to be used during the August Presidential Preference Primary.